1996-97	190.25	156.20
1997-98	196.19	185.96
1998-99	203.96	192.91
1999-2000 (Estimated)	202.52	198.30

(b) and (d) The requirement of urea in til the States in the country including North Eastern region and Jammu & Kashmir, *is* met fully through the mechanism of allocations of urea under Essential Commodities Act. The gap between demand and indigenous availability, if any, is met through imports.

To ensure timely and adequate availability of urea to J&K and North Eastern State, Government of India is reimbursing the cost of transportation of urea on actual basis under Special Freight Reimbursement Scheme. For other States, transport and distribution cost is met on a normative basis under Equated Freight Reimbursement Scheme.

(c) Keeping in view the Government's declared policy towards Public Sector, which is to restructure and revive potentially viable Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), close down PSUs which cannot be revived while fully protecting the interest of the workers, the rehabilitation proposals for the two urea manufacturing sick PSUs, namely Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) based on unit wise techno-economic viability are to be submitted to the competent authority in the Government and, thereafter, for sanction of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

Decontrol of Urea

1403. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertilizers industry in the country has sought total decontrol of Urea; and

(b) if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS):

(a) Fertilizer Association of India in its representations and in its meeting with Government have suggested total decontrol of urea.

(b) Government has not taken any decision on total decontrol of urea.

Indo-Oman Joint Venture Fertilizer Project

1404. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report, "Reinventing a big bad deal" published in the Outlook dated 10th July, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the Indo-Oman Joint Venture Fertilizer Project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Committee of Secretaries headed by Shri N.K. Singh, the Finance Ministry as well as the Planning Commission were opposed to this project; and

(e) if so, the reasons for clearing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government have approved investment of IFFCO & KRIBHCO in the revised and restructured Oman India Fertilizer Project on 20.6.2000 after considering all aspects relating to the Project. The approval is however, subject to early resolution of certain outstanding issues. The salient features of the revised and restructured project are as under:—

— Capital Cost : USS 969 million

— Debt-Equity Ratio : 67:33

— Debt : USS 649 million

— Equity (IFFCO & KRIBHCO) : USS 160 million